

June 11, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share with the FCC my comments regarding the proposed merger between XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio. I am an overwhelming proponent of the merger and I would like to explain my reasoning. As a member of the general public and a consumer, I have been a big fan and subscriber of satellite radio for approximately four years. As the offerings / content that each company offers has grown over the years, I have actually been quite frustrated more so than pleased. My frustration stems from the fact that, as the content offered seems to be expanding and improving overall in satellite radio, the two companies' offerings have in many cases become too distinct. Thus, as a consumer, I feel that I personally have little choice but to subscribe to both services to hear the content I want to hear. For example, if I want to hear NBA basketball or NFL football broadcasts, I need a Sirius subscription. For baseball and certain college sports including basketball and football (I follow Pac-10), I need an XM subscription (Sirius does not cover Pac-10). There are many other examples in which the content offered by each company is very distinct – for example many celebrity personalities have talk shows on one service only. I am sure the FCC is aware of this already. Needless to say I am a current subscriber of both services, albeit reluctantly as this was not my initial intention or desire.

As a consumer, it is very frustrating that in order to hear the content I desire, I currently must purchase two separate sets of hardware, namely two satellite antennae and two receivers, as well as purchase two separate subscription services. Prior to these companies announcing their merger plans, I actually thought to myself that such a merger would be ideal for consumers to address these frustrations, which I felt surely many other consumers must share. Along these lines, my understanding is that with a merger, that I (the consumer) would only need one set of hardware and one subscription, both of which would be cheaper than the two separate sets of hardware and separate subscriptions I currently pay for. In addition, I have also heard that it might be possible with the merger to choose the content I want to hear from an 'a la carte' menu. This also makes sense to me as it allows those of us who desire more content to receive and pay for such, and those who wish for a minimal amount of content to also receive and pay for that, thus allowing for more choice for less overall.

In summary, all of these changes, namely more choice for less cost to the consumer, can only benefit the consumer and general public. With regards to concern over the two companies forming what has been described by opponents of the merger as a 'monopoly', I vehemently oppose this notion. I personally know many people who listen to terrestrial radio only (and not satellite) because it is free, and I also know of many other people who listen to their iPods in their car (and not satellite). Satellite radio is truly in competition with free radio, as well as other technology, such as (although not exclusively) iPods. Therefore I believe the market is much bigger than XM vs. Sirius. Car audio is a very dynamic, competitive and open market, and satellite radio is only one piece of this. My understanding of the car audio market around the world is that many countries have no satellite radio option whatsoever. In countries that do have a satellite radio option, my understanding is that there is one satellite radio company in these countries (named "Worldspace") and that even this company is struggling in competition vs. free radio. I bring this up because I am not sure our market can sustain two satellite radio companies, and I passionately believe that one company with more content and less cost is ultimately better for the consumer. After all, what's better for the consumer should be better for America. I really feel this merger is a win, win situation for all.

I passionately feel that I can guarantee that the American public will be much happier with an option of purchasing a satellite radio subscription that offers more choices for less cost. There are and always will be many options for our car audio, and with the FCC's support, the consumer will only benefit from what I consider to be a much richer option in a new and improved satellite radio offering.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed merger.

Sincerely,

Steven Lawenda